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HORNE RELEASES RESULTS OF NUTRITION PILOT AND SUPPORTS LEGISLATION FOR REGULATING FOOD SALES IN SCHOOLS

PHOENIX (Tuesday, February 1, 2005) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne announced today in a press conference the positive results of the eight schools that participated in a nutrition pilot in the fall of 2004. The study shows that the schools can make substantially as much money, or more, with healthy foods in vending machines, rather than pushing sugar and saturated fats on students. Based on these results, Horne is strongly supporting legislation offered by Representative Mark Anderson (R-Dist. 18).

The pilot required the schools to alter the contents of any food sales available to students. The schools removed all sugared sodas, candies and gum and replaced them with healthier food products like water, juice, low-fat milk, granola bars, pretzels and fruits and vegetables.

“With positive results overall, the pilot proved that revenues will remain constant or even slightly increase when offering healthier food choices to kids,” said Horne. “It’s important for schools to see that Arizona students will in fact purchase healthy items, when made available.”

Arizona is the first and only state to study the financial impact of such legislation prior to pursuing it.

“It is time for Arizona to make the grade when it comes to the health of our students. This legislation will lead Arizona in the direction it needs to make that happen,” said Horne.

The final results of the pilot are available at www.ade.az.gov and click on Nutrition Study Results.

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